



RSC Talking Points: *The Value of a Billion*

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In the next few weeks, you are bound to hear a lot of talk about the budget. You are also bound to hear from the Democrats about their desired budget proposals above and beyond what Republicans want to do. Too often, Democrats throw around exorbitant numbers in the billions yet depict them as insignificant. But a billion is not insignificant! Below are some useful—and fun—examples of ways to convey to the media and constituents how much a billion really is.

Volume Discount?

If you had a billion dollars to spend, assuming no taxes you could buy:

- A fleet of 24,423 Cadillac DeVille 4-door sedans (comfortably seating 146,538 people)
- 240,755 pounds of gold at mid-March prices
- 3,333 mid-size homes in a suburb of New York City

Shop 'Til You Drop

If you went on a \$1000 shopping spree today and every day until you spent \$1 billion, you'd have to shop every day for the next 2,740 years.

Whistle While You Work

If you had a great year and earned \$100,000, you'd have to bring in the same income for 10,000 years straight to earn a billion dollars.

Overtime

Many people work 40 hours a week. To work for a billion hours, you'd have to work continuously for 114,155 years!

Save for a Rainy Day

If you put away \$100 a week in savings, without interest it would take you 192,307 years to save \$1 billion.

Lungs of Steel

Many people can hold their breath for 30 or 60 seconds. If you wanted to hold your breath for a billion seconds, you'd have to hold it for 32 years!

Back to the Future

If you got a hold of a time-machine and set it to take you back a billion minutes, you'd find yourself in the year 98--during the early days of the Roman Empire!

Space Travel

If you wanted to travel a billion miles, you'd have to make:

- 40,158 trips around the Earth
- More than 5 roundtrips to and from the Sun

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